

BARBARA KUNZE
7355 WEST MORROW DRIVE

GLENDAL, AZ 85308 2668 '99 SEP 14 P2:08
(623)561-0718

September 9, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Nos. 98N-1230, 97P-0197 and 96P-0418

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing to express my concern over the forced molting of hens. Not only is this starvation cruel, but it could lead to salmonella poisoning and is a health concern.

The FDA must do more than simply place bacteria Warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. The FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

The FDA has the jurisdiction to ban the forced molting practice by virtue of its injurious effect on human health. The FDA should ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and the consumption of eggs. The cruelty of the hens and the contamination are directly linked.

The FDA was petitioned in April of 1998 to ban forced molting. That petition should be granted without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to this matter . . .

Yours truly,

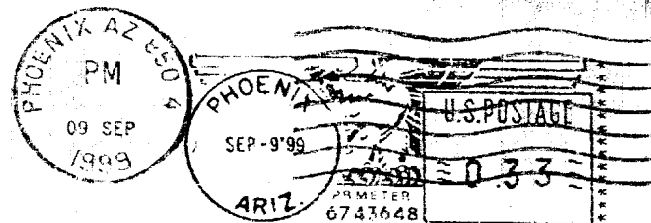
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7355 West Morrow Drive
Glendale, AZ 85308



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20852+0001



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C562

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C563
96P-0418/C562